

Message Text

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ACTION MBFR-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 OIC-04 AEC-11 ACDA-19

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 SAJ-01

H-02 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 /155 W
----- 093412

P R 171852 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8899

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

ALL MBFR CAPITALS 462

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDEL SALT TWO II

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 4148

GENEVA FOR DISTO

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MBFR: DISCUSSION WITH SOVITE REPS MAY 17

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NETHERLANDS AND US REP HAD A DISCUSSION ON WIRL PROCEDURES WITH SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV, TIMERBAYEV AND MOVCHAN ON AFTERNOOD OF MAY 17 FOLLOWING PLENARY SESSION. NETHERLANDS REP SAID ALLIES WANTED TO MOVE AHEAD TO COMPLETE WORK BY END OF MAY AND PROPOSED THAT GROUP OF TEN BEGIN INTENSIVE WORK ON AGENDA ON MAY 21 AT LATEST. KHLESTOV TOOK EXCEPTION TO NETHERLANDS REP' S PROPOSAL FOR ROTATION OF ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES IN DISCUSSION PANEL BUT ACCEPTED THAT WORK COULD BEGIN ON MAY

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21 ON BASIS OF TEN COUNTRIES AND ALLIES COULD LATER STATE IF THEY WISHED TO MAKE CHANGES. IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT NEXT PLENARY WOULD TAKE PLACE ON MAY 24. END SUMMARY.

2. NETHERLANDS REP BEGAN BY SAYING THAT ALLIED REPS HAD DISCUSSED WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES RECENT SOVIET VIEWS ON TIMING OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE AGENDA FOLLOWING THE MAY 17 PLENARY. THE ALLIES WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE UNABLE TO HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSION ON MAY 18 AS THEY HAD PROPOSED AND AS THE SOVIETS HAD ORIGINALLY AGREED. NETHERLANDS REP SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND SOVIETS THAT IT WAS THE CONTINUED HOPE AND INTENTION OF THE ALLIES TO REACH AGREEMENT ON REMAINING WORK OF TIME, PLACE, COMMUNIQUE AND AGENDA, BY THE END OF PRESENT MONTH. ALLIED REPS UNDERSTOOD SOVIET REPS HAD AGREED TO THIS TENTATIVE TARGET DATE, AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MEET IT UNLESS BOTH SIDES WERE WILLING TO ADOPT AN INTENSIVE TEMPO OF WORK.

3. NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT, REGARDING THE PROPOSED WORKING PANEL TO DISCUSS THE AGENDA, THE ALLIES INTENDED TO BE REPRESENTED BY SIX REPRESENTATIVES. AT THE OUTSET, THIS WOULD BE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, CANADA, THE FRG, NETHERLANDS, THE UK AND THE US. THE ALLIES UNDERSTOOD THAT THE WARSAW PACT STATES WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY FOUR MEMBERS. THE ALLIES WISHED TO CONSIDER THIS WORKING PANEL AS AN INFORMAL, AD HOC BODY WITHOUT STATUS AND OF COURSE WITHOUT ESTABLISHING ANY PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE. IT WAS THE ALLIED INTENTION THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WOULD REMAIN CONSTANT, BUT THEY MIGHT WISH TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR GROUP. THE EASTERN SIDE OF COURSE WOULD ALSO BE FREE TO DO SO SHOULD IT WISH TO DO SO. THE NETHERLANDS REP ASKED IF THE SOVIETS AGREED TO THESE POINTS.

4. KHLESTOV ASKED WHO WOULD BE THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS OF THE ALLIES SHOULD ROTATE. NETHERLANDS REP REPLIED THAT THE FIRST ALLIED GROUP WOULD CONSIST OF THE SIX COUNTRIES NAMED, BUT THAT THE ALLIES WOULD NOT WISH TO EXCLUDE THAT, AT THE DISIRE OF THE ALLIES THEMSELVES, THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR GROUP MIGHT BE CHANGED BY SUBSTITUTION OF OTHER ALLIED REPS, INCLUDING POSSIBLY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE CHANGED.

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5. KHLESTOV SAID THAT HE HAD ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THAT THE WORKING PANEL WOULD CONSIST OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A SIX TO FOUR RELATIONSHIP, BUT SINCE THE ALLIES APPARENTLY WERE NOW STARTING FROM THE IDEA THAT THEY COULD INCLUDE FLANK REPRESENTATIVES, THEN WHY SHOULD THE SOVIETS BE LIMITED TO FOUR? IT WOULD BE MORE EQUITABLE TO START WITH A FOUR TO FOUR RELATIONSHIP. IF THE ALLIES WERE GOING

TO INCLUDE FLANKS IN THEIR GROUP, WHY SHOULD THERE BE PLENARIES IN ADDITION TO WORKING PENAL MEETINGS? THE IDEA OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLENARIES WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN AS THE DISCUSSION ON THE AGENDA DEVELOPED. BUT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POINT IN DOING THIS IF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT IN THE WORKING GROUP TOO. THE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE SIX PLUS FOUR, PLUS PLENARIES, WHICH WOULD BE LOGICAL AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL. IT WAS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE EAST TO ADD TWO FLANK STATES AND BRING THE GROUP TO SIX ON A SIDE, BUT IN THAT CASE, THE WORKING GROUP WOULD BE SO NUMEROUS THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO HAVE PLENARIES ONLY. MOREOVER, A SINGLE EASTERN PARTICIPANT WOULD HAVE TO BE OMITTED, IN THIS EVENT, AND THIS WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES.

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USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USDEL SALT TWO II

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 4148

GENEVA FOR DISTO

FROM US REP MBFR

6. THE NETHERLANDS REP SAID A START SHOULD BE MADE WITH A

WORKING GROUP OF SIX AND FOUR WITHOUT SPECIFYING PRINCIPLES OF SELECTION OF ANY KIND. THE PARTICIPATING REPS SHOULD MERELY BE THERE FOR THE MEETING. IT COULD BE CONSIDERED LATER WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY DESIRE ON EITHER SIDE TO CHANGE THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR REPRESENTATION. MOVCHAN SAID AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE ALLIED POSITION, IT COULD BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: AS A RULE, THE PLENARIES WOULD MEET TO DISCUSS THE AGENDA, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF CARRYING OUT PREPARATORY WORK, PROVISION WOULD BE MADE FOR INFORMAL CONTACTS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, A SPECIFIC GROUP OF COUNTRIES WOULD MEET WITHOUT FORMALIZATION OR PREJUDICE TO THE FUTURE. THIS GROUP WOULD HAVE NO NAME,

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NO PUBLICITY OR OFFICIAL EXISTENCE. THE NETHERLANDS REP SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE AN ADEQUATE DESCRIPTION. THE ALLIES MIGHT REVERT LATER TO THEIR DESIRE TO CHANGE COMPOSITION OF THEIR REPRESENTATION. THIS WAS, IN HIS VIEW, THEIR AFFAIR. FOR THE MOMENT, THE PROPOSED PANEL WAS MERELY AN AD HOC GROUP WITHOUT STATUS, DESIGNED TO INITIATE DISCUSSION ON THE AGENDA AND PREPARE THE PLENARIES. ON THIS BASIS, AND AD REFERENDUM TO THE VIEWS OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS ON BOTH SIDES, IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GROUP OF TEN COULD TAKE PLACE AT 1500 HOURS, MAY 21, AND THAT THE NEXT PLENARY COULD TAKE PLACE AT 1030 HOURS ON MAY 24.

7. THE NETHERLANDS REP ASKED FOR SOVIET RESPONSE TO HIS VIEWS ON TIMING. MOVCHAN REPLIED SOVIETS WANTED TO CLOSE DOWN VIENNA TALKS AS SOON AS FEASIBLE AND WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO DO SO BY END OF MAY. KHESTOV AND TIMERBAYEV WERE MORE CAUTIOUS. THEY SAID THAT SPEED OF COMPLETING TALKS WOULD DEPEND ON ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO MOVE TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET AGENDA PROPOSALS. HUMES

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